

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

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BRINGING THE CHILDREN TO CHRIST.

Extracts of a Sermon Preached by the Pastor, to His People March 24.

It was upon the occasion, when anxious parents were in the act of bringing their little ones unto our Lord, that he spake the words, "Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

These words are among the most beautiful of all of our Lord's sayings. Neither is there among the many touching and soul-inspiring incidents in the life of Jesus a more suggestive and beautiful one than this.

These parents who brought their children to the Savior, gave evidence of their solicitude in the welfare of their little ones. They also give further proof of the fact, that their anxieties for their offspring are directed in the right channel. Many parents are, indeed, very solicitous about their little ones, but their anxieties are based upon principles fundamentally wrong. The parent's foremost concern about the child should be concerning its spiritual training and safety. Anything short of this has not in view the highest good of the child. I am not amazed that our Lord was moved with indignation, when he saw how his disciples rebuked these parents, who were wont to bring their little ones to him, that he should touch them. The Master saw in the conduct of his disciples an attempt to interfere with these parents, when they were in the act of discharging the most solemn and sacred obligations they owed to their children. The attitude assumed by the disciples was calculated to teach these parents, that their solicitude in asking a blessing from the Lord was unwarranted. But our Lord commends the anxiety of the parents, and sets the seal of His divine approval thereon. He said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me," and He took them up into His arms and blessed them. It is right that parents should be solicitous about their children in bringing them into Jesus. Let this be the parent's first, and highest concern about the little one.

The question is often asked: At what age may the child be brought to Christ,

so as to receive a blessing from him: or in other words, at what age will the child be capable of receiving any benefits from Christ?

The children who were brought to our Lord were received by him, and he imparted unto them a blessing; evidently a blessing of grace. It would seem that the disciples regarded the children as incapable of receiving any benefits from the Master. They rebuked those who brought them, as much as to say to the parents, these children are incapable of receiving any good from the Lord. In answer to this opinion of his disciples, our Lord said "suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven," and he blessed them. Let us remember now that these were little children. Mathew says, they were little children. Mark says, they were little children. Luke says, "And they brought unto him also their babes." And it was these little children, some of them babes, that Jesus took up into his arms and blessed.

John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. The prophet Jeremiah was sanctified and ordained to be a prophet to the nations, before he came forth out of the womb. Little Samuel was brought unto the house of the Lord at Shiloh, and then and there lent unto the Lord. How many devoted and pious mothers are constantly bringing their babes unto the Lord, and asking that He may bless them. And in after years the fruit of their solicitude becomes manifest. Babes may be brought to Christ to receive blessings of grace, and moreover have a right to citizenship in His kingdom; "For of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

It is evident also, that at an age much earlier in life than many suppose, a child may intelligently embrace Christ. A child may be taught at a very tender age to love the Saviour, and consecrate its child-heart unto Him. A mother who lived in England, taught her infant child that his father was away in India. As soon as the child could lisp a word it was taught to utter its father's name. It was also at once shown a picture of the father, and taught to say, "That is my papa." Though the child had never seen the father to know him, yet through the faithful training of the mother it learned to love him. One day the father came

home, and met the child at the doorway, and was greeted by the little one with kisses, and exclamations, "My papa, my papa, how glad I am to see you." Why may not mother's thus teach their little ones to know Jesus, and love him. A young man who was passing an examination for licensure to the Gospel ministry, was asked, where he was converted? The young man answered. "I do not know." Without doubt he said the truth. He could not tell. His pious and saintly mother had consecrated the child unto the Lord in early infancy. He who forms the members of the body, cannot he also give formation to the heart?

Parents who are solicitous about the salvation of their children, bring them to Jesus oft in prayer, asking Him that He may touch their hearts, and lay His unseen hand upon their heads in heavenly benedictions. Pious mothers and fathers bring their little ones to Jesus in the covenant of holy baptism, and receive for them the sign and seal of adoption into the Heavenly Kingdom. Pious parents bring their little ones to Jesus in the home training and by the sanctity and holiness of their lives in the home. Solicitous parents bring their children to Jesus by having them with them, in the service of the sanctuary. There is little hope of that child who is not taught to love and reverence the house of God. The service of the sanctuary is attended by very few of the little ones, and the outcome of the whole matter is, that there are a very few of the children who are accepting Christ. Solicitous parents see to it, that their children are at the sessions of the Sabbath school, where the effort is made to bring the children to Jesus. Parents, truly solicitous about their little ones, come with them to these services for the children, and cast in their influence with this work of the Lord's people. The Sabbath school is one of the greatest agencies of the day in bringing the children to Christ. In all these ways above named, parents may labor for the salvation of their children. Are Christian workers fully awake to their privileges and their opportunities, how they may bring the children of this generation to the Lord Jesus Christ, and insure their future safety, and secure them for the Church? "Suffer the little children to come unto Jesus, and forbid them not."

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M. - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers: REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, ELDER F. D. PAULUS, DEACON H. P. VORDERMARK.

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AMONG the duties of first importance which members owe to their church, is that of giving for her support. But above all others, this duty is oftentimes the most sadly neglected. While all other honest dues are paid, those which people owe to the Lord are many times left unpaid. Many people seem to live in utter forgetfulness of the fact, that the privileges which they enjoy in the house of God, are only purchased at a great price. Every church incurs its annual expenses, and these must be provided for by some one. Why is it that some church-members are so unmindful of this duty? Is it because they have not been blessed with means wherewith to give unto the the Lord? There are indeed now and then some good souls, who have little of this world's goods entrusted into their charge, and hence are unable to give much for the support of their church. But are these the persons who neglect this important duty of giving? Are these the church members who do not pay for the bread they eat? Are they the Lord's poor, who do not pay their honest debts they owe to the Lord? Was it not such an one, a poor widow, who cast into the treasury her two mites, which was all her living? The poor in the church are not as a rule the class of persons, who are ignorant of what it costs to support the church, and who are past all feeling of the duty of giving. Experience teaches that the poor in the church are awake to this duty, and are free and liberal in bringing their offerings unto the Lord. When the rich cast into the treasury of their abundance there is oftentimes great astonishment, but to us it is a matter of greater surprise, to see how those who are in need and in penury, deny themselves, and bring their earnings unto the Lord for the support of the church.

Look over the records of the churches, and you will learn perhaps to your astonishment, that those who in the main have fallen into arrears in the payment of their dues, are among that class of church members, who are abundantly able to pay what they owe unto the Lord. The expense of supporting the church commonly falls upon a few willing and liberal souls, while many others who are equally competent are willfully and knowingly shirking duty. This is far

from being just and honest. Those who thus take the advantage of their brethren do an injustice to themselves, and to the church. The transgress or in wroking others always wrongs himself also. Stolen bread never tastes as sweet as the bread bought with ones own earnings. It is never eaten with such a sweet relish, and hence is neither as nutritious nor as profitable. The Gospel bread for which we pay a full round price does our souls the most good. It is sweetest and most nutritious to the heart. We grow strong in Christian character by cross-bearing and self-denial. We do others an injustice by compelling them to bear the burdens, which are ours to bear and we wrong also ourselves. In bearing the expense of the church let church members deal frankly, and honestly with each other. Each one bearing his lawful part of the burden. This will be calculated to promote good will and fellowship among the people. This will inspire the hearts of the people with confidence one in another. Do your duty to your church in all things, and you will endear yourself to the people, and enjoy their esteem and affection. We are not surprised that some church members never feel at home in their church. They never do anything for their church. They never pay for its support. They are always scheming to shirk duty, and as a legitimate consequence they are not esteemed and loved. Give only as the Lord prospers you, but this do. Each one of the church doing his full measure of duty, and the church will not suffer, nor be embarrassed in its work. Rob the Lord of his dues, and the Lord will rob you in return. Neglect your duty to your church, and the church may soon neglect you. Do your full duty to God and to your church and you will be esteemed by the church and by the Lord.

Brief Notes from the Salem Church in the Country.

The pastor held two services at this church during the month of March. The attendance was large each time.

Mr. and Mrs. George Barret could not attend the last service on account of being sick.

March 24th the Sabbath school was organized for the summer. Edward Gloyd was elected Superintendent. William Garman, assistant. John Warner Secretary. About 100 scholars reported at the first meeting. Let all the parents bring their children into the school.

Mrs. Clark Bolander and little daughter Millie, of Akron, O., recently visited with their friends in this city. We were glad to meet them, and hope they may come to our city often.

EASTER SERVICES AT GRACE CHURCH.

The quarterly communion services of Grace Church will be held on Easter Sunday morning, April 21st, at 10:30. It is the wish of the pastor that every member of Grace Church, may be in attendance upon this service. It has been somewhat difficult to ascertain, who all are members of Grace Church; but it is hoped that all who consider themselves members of this church, may be present at this service. We shall shortly make up our annual reports to classis, and it will be necessary to know our exact membership. Let all those who count themselves members, so report themselves at this communion service upon Easter Sunday.

This service promises to be a very interesting one. The prospects are that there will be a large number of accessions to the church at this time. Services will be held each evening, during the entire of the previous week. Preparatory services on Saturday afternoon at 2:30. Many of the members of the church, together with the pastor, are looking forward with much interest to these services. No doubt every member will aim to be present at all of these meetings. Do you not know of some friend whom you can bring with you to these services, who may be induced to give his heart to Christ? Pray for these meetings. May it be a season of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our church. We hope to see a large ingathering of souls during these services. Let us pray unto the Lord of the harvest, that He may send us forth as laborers into His work, that each one may bring in some sheaves for the Master.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Monthly Consistory meeting, Monday evening, April 1st, 7:30, at church parlors.

Ladies' Society will hold its monthly meeting Thursday evening, April 4th, 7:30, at church parlors.

Children's Mission Band, just organized, meets Sabbath afternoon, April 14th, 2:30

Quarterly Communion services on Easter Sunday, April 21st, in the morning at 10:30. Preparatory services Saturday previous, at 2:30 p. m.

Special services each evening during Easter week, beginning at 7:30.

Sermon to the children by the pastor Sabbath morning, April 7, at 10:30. The pastor wants to see all the children, and parents at this service.

Confirmation and baptismal services on Easter Sunday. Parents wishing to have their children baptized, may bring them to the church at this time.

GRACE REFORMED CHURCH.

Our Church Parlors on East Washington St., between Barr and Lafayette streets.

SERVICES.

Sabbath morning,	10:30
Sabbath evening	7:30
Sunday School,	9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening	6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening	7:30

Come, and welcome to these services.

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BREVITIES.

The ladies' bazaar was a grand success.

Subscriptions will still be received for the GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

Send in your blanks to the consistory, stating what you can pay to the church the next year.

Mr. Conrad, father of Mrs. Zartman left for Canton, O., a few weeks ago to attend to some business matters.

If any of our subscribers do not receive their copies of the VISITOR let them report to the pastor promptly.

Your subscriptions to the church are now due, April 1." See the deacons how your accounts stand for the last two years.

Our advertisers are all doing a booming business. They have opened out their stock of spring goods. Go and see them.

Dr. Younge, whose card appears in our columns, is now located on the corner of Calhoun street and Douglas avenue. The Boston Store is also in its new quarters.

David Steel and wife have removed to their farm near the Salem's Church. We are sorry to lose them from the church here. They will be members at the Salem's Church.

Martin Conet is a hustler. He recently secured fourteen subscribers for the VISITOR, all among the "boys" at his shop. Thanks and a warm greeting to these "boys." The VISITOR will be glad to come into your homes, and talk with you there.

The Ladies' Sewing Circle met March 21st at the home of Mrs. Certia. On March 28th at the home of Mrs. Kline. The attendance at both times was quite large, and the ladies put in their time with a will. The collections were large. The ladies are setting an example for the men.

Sabbath evening March 10, Rev. Rettig, of the Orphan's Home preached a very acceptable sermon at the Grace Church. About thirty of the orphans were in attend-

ance at these services. Father Retig and his family, always have a welcome at Grace Church.

The Children's Mission Band is a new organization effected among the children of our Sunday-school. The children are starting out in earnest to do work for the Sabbath-school and the church. Their first meeting was held March 24. We hope to enlist all the children in this work.

On March 5th Jesse Sternberg and Hattie Snyder, of Goshen, were united in marriage by the pastor, at the home of the bride's father. The pastor was glad to meet so many of his friends at Goshen when on this trip. His family and himself wish these newly wedded friends of theirs, a long and prosperous life.

THE LADIES BAZAAR.

The ladies of the Grace Church are delighted with the results of their bazaar. It was a grand success, and very gratifying in every particular to the entire church. It is often-times difficult to unite so many hearts and hands in any one project. But in this instance the ladies were all of one accord, and every heart and hand was enlisted. Perfect harmony prevailed, and every one was in the work with the whole heart. It was certain from the very out-start, that if will-power and energy could make the bazaar a success, this end would be achieved. The ladies are deserving of much credit and praise, for the zeal which they evinced, for the harmony, and systematic way in which their work was done. They were untiring in their efforts. Day after day they were at their posts of duty and toiled until in the late hours of the night.

The ladies who were in charge of the tables, and the cooking, acquitted themselves nobly, and achieved for themselves a good report. The dinners and suppers served were sumptuous feasts. The business men who dined with the ladies, said they were sorry that the Bazaar was not continued longer, as they were served such excellent meals. The ladies of Grace Church have the reputation of setting good tables.

Much praise is also due to the ladies who had charge of the booths. This work was almost exclusively entrusted into the hands of the young ladies of the church and their friends. The management in this line of the work indicated that these ladies had an eye to business. The enormous stock of goods put up on sale at the various booths, was almost entirely disposed of, while during the entire fair some of the ladies were kept busy each day in making some articles,

so as to keep up their stock. The construction and arrangement of the booths which was all after the design of the ladies, were novel and beautiful. There is no question about it; the young ladies did their work well, and did it with a will. Miss Maggie Haverly who was at the head of the management of the booths, is deserving of special praise for the manner in which this work was executed. Mrs. Zartman was entrusted with the responsible position of cashier. Much credit is due to her for the manner in which her books and accounts were kept, and for the final report made of all the finances and doings of the Bazaar. Dan Souder, the ladies say, made a good door-keeper. Frank Paulus and James Lonergan, excellent men in the ticket office. Henry Vordermark did good work in public printing and drawing. John Vordermark was now and then, as he had time, splendid help in the kitchen, and at the table. The members from the country were on hand to do their part. Some ladies, who are friends of the church, very kindly remembered the Bazaar. Among them notably, Mrs. John Bass, of Berry street, who furnished beautiful roses and other flowers for the flower booth. Also Mrs. Allen Hamilton, who furnished some handsome cakes and a half dozen or more chickens.

These ladies and all others who donated to the Bazaar have the thanks of the church for their good will and valuable assistance.

The following is a brief summary of the receipts, expenditures, and profits of the Bazaar, as gleaned from the cashier's reports:

Booth receipts, net—	
Fancy Booth.....	\$ 83 22
Ice Cream Booth.....	24 65
Tissue Paper Booth.....	22 00
Apron Booth.....	56 50
Natural Flower Booth.....	32 66
Candy Booth.....	47 23
Drug Store Booth.....	116 61

Total receipts of Booths.....	\$415 72
Door receipts.....	\$130 40
Ticket receipts.....	69 60
Miscellaneous receipts.....	136 98

Total receipts.....	\$752 70
Expenditures.....	220 79

Total net receipts..... \$531 91

Some other articles have been disposed of since the close of the Bazaar, and the ladies are still busy making articles to fill orders. In every respect the Bazaar proved a success and the ladies say they will embark in the same work again in the near future.

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